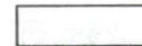
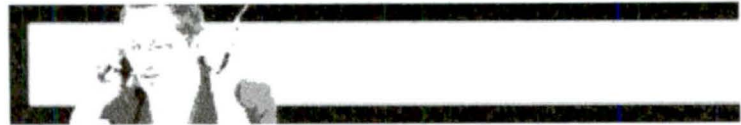


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## First Citizens: Dan and Nancy Evans

Mike Flynn

This is the time of year when giving and involvement in community causes strike a deeper chord with us. And thus it's an appropriate time for announcing the couple named to receive the 2003 First Citizen Award, presented each year to a man or woman (or in this case, a couple) for providing outstanding leadership in giving of themselves for the betterment of the community.

Dan Evans, three-term governor, former U.S. senator and former college president, and chair or member of an array of corporate and nonprofit boards, has provided a lifelong definition of citizenship and community involvement.

And Nancy Evans, who as the state's first lady helped oversee restoration of the Governor's Mansion and in recent years created her own significant list of involvements and contributions, has provided her own definition of citizenship.

Thus it is that Dan and Nancy Evans have been chosen to receive the 2003 First Citizen Award, joining more than 60 men and women who have been singled out since the award was created in 1939 for their



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commitments and contributions to the well-being and philanthropic prosperity of King County.

The First Citizen honor, created by the Seattle-King County Board of Realtors in 1939 and presented by both the Realtors and Puget Sound Business Journal for the past five years, is regarded as the most prestigious honor in the area, because it is a pure honoring, not an honoring designed to raise funds for a particular cause.

The Evanses, selected as 2003 First Citizens by a committee composed of representatives of the Realtor board and the Business Journal, will be honored at the annual First Citizen Award banquet in May.

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Evans, the first recipient of the First Citizen Award with a background of service in elective office, parlayed his background as perhaps the state's most prominent elected official of the 20th century into a lifetime of commitments to education and community causes.

Evans was a state legislative leader who, in 1964, became the youngest governor in state history. He went on to become the first Washington governor to be elected to three consecutive terms. He then became president of what was a fledgling The Evergreen State College. In 1983 he was appointed by then-Gov. John Spellman to the U.S. Senate seat that had been held for more than 30 years by Democrat Henry M. Jackson, who had suffered a fatal heart attack.

Evans chaired the Northwest Power Planning Council for two years but resigned when he accepted the appointment to Jackson's seat.

Evans ran for election to fill the unexpired term but, in typical fashion, decided one term in the U.S. Senate was enough. He voluntarily walked away from what has been described as "the world's most exclusive club" by deciding not to seek another term, opting to return to the Seattle area and a focus on involvement with issues and causes in this region.

Nancy Evans in recent years has served as a member of the board of trustees at Whitman College, and as a board member for the Seattle Symphony, public television station KCTS, and the Friends of Cancer Lifeline.

The Evanses, as with the Okis last year, were reluctant to be singled out for honoring. The point I made to them, as the selection committee representatives met with them to convince them to accept the honor, is that this honor is less for those being recognized as First Citizens than it is for the community that will gather to celebrate their contributions.



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It's vital for the community itself to be able to pause to thank those who have set examples of giving back to the community, and to realize anew that this area is blessed with dramatic examples of giving and caring individuals.

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*MIKE FLYNN is publisher of the Business Journal. Reach him at [mflynn@bizjournals.com](mailto:mflynn@bizjournals.com).*

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